

# Neverver language

**Lingarak**, also known as **Neverver** (Nevwervwer), is an Oceanic language. Neverver is spoken in Malampa Province, in central Malekula, Vanuatu. The names of the villages on Malekula Island where Neverver is spoken are Lingarakh and Limap.

Neverver is a threatened language, and native languages are protected and secured by the local government that is in charge. Sixty percent of the children are able to speak this language.<sup>[3]</sup> However, the dominant languages in the community, such as Bislama, English, and French are pushed to be used within these language communities.<sup>[4]</sup> Bislama is the most widely used language within this region. English and French are the two most distinguished languages within this region because they are connected with the schooling system. In the Malampa Province, English and French are the primary languages taught for education. English is used for business transactions within this region and helps generate revenue within the region.<sup>[3]</sup> This is due to the fact that before this province gained its independence in 1980 they were governed by the joint French-English colonial rule. Overall, there are only 550 native speakers of Neverver.

Neverver falls under the Oceanic branch of the Austronesian language family (based on comparison of cognates, morphology, phonology and other evidence markers), which is the second largest language family in the world.<sup>[5]</sup> There are two dialects of the Neverver language; Mindu and Wuli.<sup>[6]</sup>

<b>Neverver</b>	
	Lingarak
<b>Native to</b>	Vanuatu
<b>Region</b>	Central Malekula
<b>Native speakers</b>	560 (2012) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Malayo-Polynesian</li> <li>▪ Oceanic</li> <li>▪ Southern Oceanic</li> <li>▪ Northern Vanuatu</li> <li>▪ Malekula Interior</li> <li>▪ Malekula Central</li> <li>▪ <b>Neverver</b></li> </ul>
<b>Dialects</b>	Mindu Wuli
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	lgk
<b>Glottolog</b>	ling1265 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ling1265">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ling1265</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

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# Phonology

## Consonants

Neverver contains a total of 27 consonant phonemes in five distinct places of articulation and six distinct manners of articulation.<sup>[1]</sup> A notable feature of Neverver is that some voiced consonants appear only in its prenasalized form.<sup>[1]</sup> Another feature of Neverver's consonants is that some have a contrastive geminate counterpart: /p:/, /t:/, /k:/, /m:/, /n:/, /l:/, /r:/, and /s:/.<sup>[1]</sup> The consonant phonemes are given in the table below using the International Phonemic Alphabet (IPA).

Consonant Phonemes<sup>[1]</sup>

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Labio-Velar</u>
<u>Nasals</u>		<u>m</u>	<u>n</u>		<u>ŋ</u>	
<u>Plosives</u>	<b>plain</b>	<u>p</u>	<u>t</u>		<u>k</u>	
	<b>prenasalized</b>	<u>m<sub>b</sub></u>	<u>n<sub>d</sub></u>		<u>ŋ<sub>g</sub></u>	
<u>Fricatives</u>	<b>plain</b>	<u>β</u>	<u>s</u>		<u>χ</u>	
<u>Affricates</u>	<b>prenasalized</b>		<u>n̪dʒ</u>			
<u>Trills</u>	<b>plain</b>		<u>r</u>			
	<b>prenasalized</b>	<u>m̪b</u>	<u>n̪d̪r</u>			
<u>Approximants</u>			<u>l</u>	<u>j</u>		<u>w</u>

Voiced obstruents, including the fricatives /β/ and /χ/, and the prenasalized trills /m̪b/ and /n̪d̪r/ are devoiced in word-final position in rapid speech. Among younger speakers, the prenasalized plosives become simple nasals in word-final position.

The plosive /p/ becomes a voiceless trill [ɸ] before the vowel /u/.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Vowels

Neverver contains a total of eight vowel phonemes, five regular vowels and three diphthongs. However, there is evidence that /y/ and /ø/ are contrastive among older speakers, bringing the total number of vowels to ten for some speakers.<sup>[1]</sup> The vowel phonemes are given in the table on the left IPA. A list of diphthongs are also provided in the table on the right along with examples.<sup>[1]</sup>

Vowel Phonemes<sup>[1]</sup>

	<u>Front</u>		<u>Back</u>
<u>High</u>	i (y)		u
<u>Mid</u>	e (ø)		o
<u>Low</u>	a		

Diphthongs

IPA	Example	English Translation
au	/naut/	"place"
ei	/mei/	"May"
ai	/aijem/	"home, dwelling"

## Syllable structure

Neverver allows for syllables with up to one consonant in the onset and in the coda, including syllables with only a nucleus. This means the structure of syllables is (C)V(C).<sup>[1]</sup> An example of the possible syllable structures is given in the table below where the corresponding syllables are in bold.<sup>[1]</sup>

Template	Instantiation	English Translation
V	/eɪ/	"he"
CV	/nau/	"cane"
VC	/i.βu.ŋis.il/	"he made smile"
CVC	/tox/	"exist"

## Stress

Stress in Neverver is regular and not contrastive. It generally falls on the singular syllable of monosyllabic words and on the penultimate syllable of multisyllabic words. In compounds, each stem is treated separately so stress is assigned to each following the general stress pattern.<sup>[1]</sup> Examples of the assignment of stress in common words are given in the table below.<sup>[1]</sup>

Stress in Common Words

Example	English Translation
['naʊs]	"rain"
['nay.len]	"water"
[ni.'te.rix]	"child"

Verbs follow a stress pattern that is different from the general stress pattern. In verbs, stress falls on the first syllable of the verb stem, disregarding the obligatory prefix; however, in imperative statements, stress is placed on the subject/mood prefix and on the first syllable of the verb stem. During reduplication, primary stress is assigned to the first instance of the reduplication.<sup>[1]</sup> Examples of the assignment of stress in verbs, instances of reduplication, and imperative statements are given in the table below.<sup>[1]</sup>

Stress in Verbs

Example	English Translation
[is.'χam]	"one"
[im.'bu.lem]	"(s)he will come"
[na. <sup>m</sup> bit.'lin.liŋ]	"we will leave (her)"
[nit.'mal.ma.lu]	"we dispersed"
['kam.tuɸ]	"go away!"
['kum.'bu.lem]	"come!"

## Pronoun and person markers

Neverver uses different pronominal and nominal forms. There are three main noun classes: common, personal, and local nouns. There is also another fourth pronominal-noun category which blends features of the Neverver pronominal system with properties of the three major noun classes. There are three pronoun paradigms in Neverver: independent personal pronouns, possessive determiners, and possessive pronouns. Like most Austronesian languages, in Neverver the inclusive/exclusive distinction only applies to the 1st person plural category. Personal nouns in Neverver include personal proper names as well as personal kin terms.

## Pronoun paradigms

### Independent personal pronouns

Independent personal pronouns encode basic person and number contrasts. This includes the optionally articulated *i-*, which can indicate either a subject or object. Although this initial *i-* is optional with the pronouns, it is obligatory with the personal interrogative. For example, *i-sikh* means 'who'. Independent personal pronouns usually refer to animate entities, unless in some particular circumstances such as reflexive constructions. Below is a table showing the independent pronoun paradigm:<sup>[8]</sup>

	Singular		Non-singular
<b>1st person</b>	(i-)na	Inclusive	(i-)git
		Exclusive	(i-)nam ~ (gu)mam
<b>2nd person</b>	(i-)okh		(i-)gam
<b>3rd person</b>	ei		adr

### Subject/mood

Furthermore, all subjects, both nominal and pronominal, are cross-referenced with a subject/mood prefix which is attached to the verb stem in realis tense. These subject/mood prefixes differ from independent personal pronouns because there is a further dual distinction in addition to the singular and plural distinction. Subject/mood prefixes are also obligatory in all verbal constructions, unlike independent pronouns. Below is a table showing the subject/mood paradigm:<sup>[9]</sup>

	<b>Singular</b>		<b>Dual</b>	<b>Plural</b>
1st person	<i>ni-</i>	Inclusive	<i>nir(i)-</i>	<i>nit(i)-</i>
		Exclusive	<i>nar(i)-</i>	<i>nat(i)-</i>
2nd person	<i>ku-</i>		<i>kar(i)-</i>	<i>kat(i)-</i>
3rd person	<i>i-</i>		<i>ar(i)-</i>	<i>at(i)-</i>

The table shows that the 3rd person form is irregular.

## Gender

In Neverver there are gendered pronominal nouns, with *vinang* expressing a female and *mang* expressing a male. These can be obligatory modified with a demonstrative or a relative clause. Gender can also be expressed using third person singular pronouns. In Neverver, when there are two human participants involved of different genders, one is expressed with a gender-coded form and the other can be coded with an optional gender-neutral *ei*. The gender-coded form to express a female participant as the grammatical subject of the first clause, is encoded in the subject/mood prefix *i-*. If the male becomes the grammatical subject in the next clause, this is distinguished with the male pronominal-noun *mang*. For example:<sup>[10]</sup>

<i>i-vlem,</i> 3:REAL:SG-come	<i>mang</i> man:ANA	<i>i-lav</i> 3:REAL:SG-get
<i>ei</i> 3SG		

'She came and the man married her.' [NVKS10.112]

In the above example there is a male and female participant involved. The subject/mood prefix *i-* encodes that the female is the subject of the first clause. When the subject shifts to the male, the pronominal-noun *mang* is used to show this shift. To show that the female has become the object again, the 3rd person pronoun *ei* expresses this.

## Possessive determiners

Prefixes derive possessive determiners in Neverver. Most of these begin with the possessive prefix *t-*. In Neverver, possessive determiners refer exclusively to human possessors, and a different construction is used to express non-human possessors. Below is a table showing the possessive determiners paradigm:<sup>[10]</sup>

	Singular		Non-singular
1st person	(t-)na	Inclusive	(t-)git
		Exclusive	(t-)nam ~ (t-)mam
2nd person	(t-)ox		(t-)gam
3rd person	titi~ei		titi-dr ~ adr

### 3. Possessive pronouns

Prefixes also derive possessive pronouns in Neverver. Possessive pronouns are made up of a nominalising prefix *at-* and the possessive prefix *t-*, which are both attached to the base pronominal morpheme (the independent pronoun). Furthermore, when the nominalising prefix is attached, the possessive pronoun can become the head of the noun phrase by itself. Below is a table showing the possessive pronoun paradigm:<sup>[11]</sup>

	Singular		Non-singular
1st person	at-t-na	Inclusive	at-t-git
		Exclusive	at-t-nam
2nd person	at-t-okh		at-t-gam
3rd person	at-titi		at-titi-dr

As the table shows, the 3rd person form uses the suppleted *titi* morpheme rather than the independent personal pronoun form. For example, *at-t-na* means 'mine' and *at-titi-dr* means 'theirs'.

## Personal nouns

In Neverver, personal nouns are one of the three main noun classes, along with common nouns and local nouns. These personal nouns can include personal proper names and personal kin terms. Many of the women's personal proper names are traditionally marked with the morphemes *le-* or *li*; however, there is no morpheme associated with men's traditional personal proper names. Neverver also has a small set of kin terms that can express family relations as well as other name avoidance strategies.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Syntax

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### Basic word order

The basic word order of Neverver is SVO, including intransitive, transitive, and ditransitive verbs.<sup>[1]</sup> Examples of sentences with intransitive, transitive, and ditransitive verbs are given below.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### Subject      Verb (Intransitive)

*Nibisbokh ang i-dum*

rat        ANA 3REAL:SG-run

"The rat ran."

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb (Transitive)</b>	<b>Primary Object</b>
<i>Nibisbokh</i> ang <i>i-te</i>	<i>noron</i>	<i>nidaro.</i>
rat ANA 3REAL:SG-cut	leaf	taro
"The rat cut taro leaves."		

<b>Subject Verb (Ditransitive)</b>	<b>Primary Object</b>	<b>Secondary Object</b>
<i>Niterikh</i> <i>i-sus-ikh</i>	<i>nida</i>	<i>titi</i>
child 3REAL:SG-ask-APPL	mother	3POSS:SG NPR-eat-NSE
"The child asked his mother for food."		

## Possession

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In Neverver, there are a numerous ways to describe possession. The correlation between an object and what matter it is made up of can make a difference in describing possession.<sup>[3]</sup> There are seven main types of possession in the language of Neverver. This includes:<sup>[13]</sup>

- 1) Human Possession,
- 2) Inherent possessions without nominal modifier,
- 3) Associative possession with nominal modifier,
- 4) Relative clause without nominal modifier,
- 5) Relative clause with nominal modifier,
- 6) Number relative clause without nominal modifier,
- 7) Number relative clause with nominal modifier.

Some examples of possession from Barbour are:<sup>[3]</sup>

Human possession: *nida* (mother) *t-na* "my mother"

Associative possession with nominal modifier: *wido* (window) *an* (nmod) *nakhmal* (house) *ang* (the) "The window of the house"

Number relative clause with nominal modifier: *nimokhmokh-tro* (female old) *an* (nmod) *i-ru* (two) *ang* (the) "the two old women/wives"

## Reduplication

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Reduplication of words occur in the language of Neverver. They occur in conjunction with verbs in this language. Words are reduplicated by reproducing and repeating the entire word or partially of it.<sup>[5]</sup> For example, the word 'tukh' of Neverver means strike, when duplicated to 'tukh tukh' it produces the word for beat.<sup>[3]</sup>

Reduplication Constraint One is used within Neverver. This is when a word's prefix being reduplicated follows the constant-verb format.<sup>[3]</sup> The table below shows examples of this:<sup>[14]</sup>

Simple Stem	Reduplicated Stem
CV te 'hit'	CV-CV tete 'fight'
CVC tas 'scratch'	CVC-CVC tas-tas 'sharpen'
CVCV malu 'leave'	CVC-CVCV mal-malu 'disperse'
CCV tnga 'search'	CV-CCV ta-tnga 'search' (duration)
CCVC sber 'reach'	CV-CCVC se-sber 'touch'

The most useful process of Reduplication in Neverver is to acquire a stative verb from a verb encoding action. Some examples of this can be seen in the table below.<sup>[15]</sup>

Base	Reduplicant
tur 'stand up'	turtur 'stand'
ngot 'break'	ngotngot 'be broken'
jing 'lie down'	jingjing 'be lying down'

There are irregular reduplications within Neverver that do not follow the constant-verb format. According to Julie Barbour, the word *vlem*, which means "come", does not follow this format.<sup>[16]</sup> It would be implied that the reduplication of this word would ve-vlem. Julie Barbour uses the example sentence "Ari vle-vle-vle-vlem" which translates into "They came closer and closer."<sup>[16]</sup>

## Negation

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Negation is a grammatical construction that semantically expresses a contradiction to a part of or an entire sentence.<sup>[17]</sup> In Lingarak, negatives typically contradict verb constructions.

### Forming negations

Verb clauses in Lingarak are negated using the negative particle *si*.<sup>[18]</sup> This negative particle always occurs after the verb. Thus, the particle is typically called a post-verbal negative particle. It can be used to negate the following constructions:

- Declarative clause - clauses that are typically used to express statements.<sup>[19]</sup>
- Imperative clauses - clauses that are typically used to give commands.<sup>[20]</sup> This can be observed in example 15 below.

- Realis mood - a mood of language, where the proposition is strongly asserted to be true and apparent, and can be readily backed up with evidence.<sup>[21]</sup> Realis verb forms typically involve the past tense.
- Irrealis mood - a mood of language, where the proposition is weakly asserted to be true, and not readily backed up with evidence. Irrealis verb forms typically involve certain modals.

In example 1 below, a declarative clause in the realis mood has been negated.<sup>[22]</sup> The verb *i-vu* meaning 'go' in third person singular realis mood is negated using the post-verbal negative particle *si*.

(1) *Be mama i-vu si.*  
 but father 3REAL:SG-go NEG  
 'But the father didn't go'

Similar to example 1 above, the post-verbal negative particle *si* is also used to negate the first person singular *nibi-kkan* meaning 'eat' in example 2 below.<sup>[22]</sup> However, the following should be noted:

- The post-verbal negative particle *si* directly follows the verbal construction that it is negating. In this case *nibi-kkan*. This is important in this example because there are two verbs involved. Since *si* directly follows *nibi-kkan*, it only negates *nibi-kkan* and not *i-ver*.
- It is also important to notice that the verb that is being negated *nibi-kkan*, directly precedes *si*, and that *si* directly precedes the reduced exclamatory particle *in*. Any part of a sentence that is being negated and occurs after the negated verb construction will occur after *si* in the negated construction. There are however certain exceptions for this as shown in examples 6 to 9 where *si* affixes to form new aspect markers, and also in examples 10 to 13 where *si* occurs with serial verb constructions.

(2) *Vinang i-ver 'Na nibi-kkan si in!'*  
 woman:ANA 3REAL:SG-say 1SG 1IRR:SG-eat NEG EXCAIM  
 'The woman said, "I won't eat!"'

Example 3 below shows another example of negation using the post-verbal negative particle *si*.<sup>[22]</sup> However, in this example it is important to observe that any words (that can take a mood) after *si* in example 3 is written in the irrealis mood. This is another characteristic of negation in Lingarak. When something in the realis mood is negated in Lingarak, then elements following the *si* particle will be written in irrealis mood.<sup>[22]</sup>

(3) *Ei i-khan si navuj ibi-skhan.*  
 3SG 3REAL:SG-eat NEG banana 3IRR:SG-one.  
 'He didn't eat a banana'

## Existential negation

In Lingarak, verb constructions that express the meaning of existence, also known as existential constructions, are treated like other common verbs when being negated.<sup>[18]</sup> Thus, to negate the verb *tokh* in Lingarak which means 'to exist', only a *si* particle is required to follow it as shown in example 4 below.<sup>[22]</sup>

(4) *Nakhabb vangvang i-takh si.*  
 fire be alight 3REAL:SG-exist NEG  
 'There was no fire'

This is atypical of Oceanic languages since Oceanic languages typically have special negative existential verbs as shown below in example 5.<sup>[23]</sup> This example is in Tokelauan which is spoken in Polynesia. In contrast to the Lingarak, Tokelauan uses a verb in the negative form for 'exist' instead of a post-verbal negative particle.

(5) *Kua hēai he huka.*

PERF NEG:exist INDEF sugar.

'There isn't any more sugar.'

## Affixing *si* with aspect markers

In Lingarak, the aspect of continuity is expressed with *mo*. When a verb that is occurring continuously is negated, the *si* particle is used as an affix and is connected to the end of *mo*. Thus, creating a new particle *mosi* which means 'no longer'.<sup>[18]</sup> This is demonstrated in example 6 below.<sup>[18]</sup> Similar to examples 1 and 2 above, the negative particle *si* occurs after the verbal construction. (In this case *Nimt-uv-uv*, meaning 'go'). In order to express the continuous aspect of the verb *Nimt-uv-uv*, *si* is affixed into the end of the aspect marker *mo* to form *mosi*. This now gives the negation the meaning of 'no longer' as shown in the free translation of example 6.

(6) *Nimt-uv-uv mo-si il naut i-met.*

1INCL:IRR:PL-DUP-go CONT-NEG CAUS place 3REAL:SG-dark.

'We can't go anymore because it's dark'

It should also be noted that the affixes *mo-* and *-si* in example 6 above are interchangeable in terms of affix order. This is demonstrated in example 7 below.<sup>[22]</sup> In contrast to *mosi* in example 6 above, *si* precedes the continuous aspect marker *mo* to form the continuous negation particle *simo*.<sup>[18]</sup> Similar to the particle *mosi* in example 6, *simo* also has the meaning of 'no longer' as shown in the free translation of example 7.

(7) *Git nimt-uv-uv si-mo.*

1INCL:NSG 1INCL:IRR:PL:DUP-go NEG-COUNT.

'We can't go anymore'

Similar to the aspect of continuation, the aspect of 'not yet' can also be expressed by the particle *vasi* which is short for *vasi*.<sup>[22]</sup> This particle is formed by reducing the affixation of *si* onto the particle *va*. Unlike *mo*, *va* in Lingarak is not a free morpheme. Thus, it is inseparable from *si*. Example 8 presented below demonstrates an instances of *vasi*.<sup>[22]</sup>

(8) *Nabbun nitan-jakh nit-rongil vasi.*

smell thing:DEF-be here 1INCL:REAL:PL:know not yet.

'The smell of this thing, we don't know it yet.'

A sentence using the reduced form of *vasi* which is *vas* as discussed above, is presented in example 9 below.<sup>[22]</sup>

(9) *Ar at-rongil vas deb nemaki Litslitz.*

3NSG 3REAL:PL-DUP-leave not yet CONT denizen Litzlitz.

'They still don't know the people of Litzlitz yet.'

## Negating serial verb constructions

In Lingarak, verbs can be strung together to form a single complex nucleus. This is process of compounding two verbs can be analysed as an instance of serialisation.<sup>[24]</sup> These instances of verb constructions are typically referred to as serialised verb constructions and also typically behave like a single verb. In this way, they can only have one subject argument, and one *si* particle for negation. An example of negating one of these serialised verbs is demonstrated in example 10 below.<sup>[18]</sup>

(10) *Na ni-ver te ei ib-lav-bir si.*  
 1SG 1 REAL:SG-say COMP 3SG 3IRR:SG-get-break/win NEG.  
 'I said he didn't return it.'

As seen in example 10 above, the serialised verb construction *ib-lav-bir*, is negated with the post verbal particle *si* like all other typical scenarios of verb clause negation in Lingarak.<sup>[25]</sup> This is because this serialised verb construction behaves like a single verb. However, the placement of the *si* particle begins to change when the second verb in the construction begins to play a more prepositional role (rather than verbal) as discussed below.

The form *delvis* in Lingarak means 'go around'. However, this verb never occurs independently, but instead will serialise on the end of other verbs to form serial verb constructions. The serial constructions are presented in the table below. However, it is important to note that these serialisations only occur for verbs that have meaning of motion or posture.

Verb of motion or posture	English equivalent of verb	Serialised verb construction	English equivalent of serialised verb construction
<i>sav</i>	'dance'	<i>sav delvis</i>	'dance around'
<i>dum</i>	'run'	<i>dum delvis</i>	'run around'
<i>vavu</i>	'walk'	<i>vavu delvis</i>	'walk around'
<i>vor</i>	'sit'	<i>vor delvis</i>	'sit around'

Despite the prepositional like meaning of *delvis*, when serialised with other verbs, the serialised verb construction behaves like *ib-lav-bir* when being negated by the post-verbal negative particle *si* since it is inherently a verb meaning 'go around'. This behaviour is illustrated in example 11 below.<sup>[25]</sup>

(11) *sav delvis si*  
 dance around NEG

In addition to *delvis*, the form *sur* in Lingarak means 'near', 'along', in some other cases it also means 'by'. When compounded with verbs to create a compound verb construction, the placement of *si* begins to vary when negating these compounded constructions. Like *sav delvis* in example 11, example 12 is also negated using a post-verbal negative particle after a word with a prepositional like meaning *sur*.<sup>[25]</sup>

(12) *At-savsav-sur si nakha.*  
 3REAL:PL-climb-along NEG tree.  
 'They didn't climb along the tree'

In contrast to example 12 above, example 13 below places the negative particle between *i-vlem* 'come' and *sur*. Thus, as stated above, *si* has broken a compound verb construction. The placement of the *si* particle has changed when negating verb constructions which have *sur* in the position of the second verb of a serialised verb construction. Thus as discussed above, the placement of *si* begins to change when the second verb in the construction begins to play a more prepositional role. It is possible that this inconsistent nature of *sur* is occurring because *sur* is currently undergoing re-analysis from verb to preposition.<sup>[25]</sup>

(13) *Nimkhut i-vlem si sur nesal.*

man 3REAL:SG-come NEG near road

'The man didn't come near the road.'

## Negative verbs

There is also a repertoire of negative verbs in Lingarak. These are presented in the table below.<sup>[22]</sup>

Positive		Negative	
<i>rongrok</i>	'want'	<i>rosikh</i>	'not want'
<i>khita</i>	'like/ love'	<i>sre</i>	'dislike'
<i>dadikh</i>	'be sufficient'	<i>varikh</i>	'be insufficient'
<i>(rongil)</i>	'know'	<i>melmelikh</i>	'know nothing about'
<i>gang</i>	'be like that'	<i>skhen</i>	'be not so'

These negative verbs are used like other verbs in Lingarak to express negative meaning and do not require *si* for negation of the negative counterparts are used. This can be shown in example 14 below.<sup>[22]</sup>

(14) *Kon le-lleng i-skhen ing.*

corn DUP-hang.down 3:REAL:SG-not.so EXCALIM.

'It's not droopy corn.'

## Functions of negations when used in conjunction with reduplication

### Forming prohibitions

When the post-verbal negative particle *si* is used alongside reduplication, negative imperatives and prohibitions can be formed. This is demonstrated in example 15 below.<sup>[26]</sup>

(15) *No, ar-ver-ver si!*

no IMP:REAL-DUP-say NEG

'No, don't say that!'

### Expressing inability using *mosi*

The inability to perform an action can also be expressed by using *mosi* to negate action.<sup>[26]</sup> This is illustrated in example 16 below. In example 16, the function of *mosi* is expresses the 'loss of an ability' to perform an action.

(16) *Ga i-yel-yel mo si i-vlem aiem.*

then 3REAL:SG-DUP-scoop-out CONT NEG 3REAL:SG-come home.

'Then she couldn't scoop out coconuts anymore and she came home.'

### Negative condition

Negative 'if' conditions can be constructed using the post-verbal negative particle *si* in conjunction with reduplication<sup>[26]</sup> and *besi* (meaning 'if') as shown in example 17 below.

(17) *Besi man-jakh adr abit-ve-ve si im-gang.*  
 if man-be.here PL 3IRR:PL-DUP-do NEG 3IRR:SG-like.so  
 'If only these men hadn't done it like that.'

## Numbering System

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Numbers one through nine follow a quinary pattern. It can either possess realis or irrelais mood and polarity of a main clause.

Below is a table showing the numerals, one through nine. A key characteristic of Neververs numbering system is associated with definiteness.<sup>[27]</sup>

Realis	Irrelais	Number
i-skham	ibi-skham	one
i-ru	ib-ru	two
i-tl	ibi-tl	three
i-vas	im-bbwas	four
i-lim	ib-lim	five
i-jo-s	im-jo-s	six
i-jo-ru	im-jo-ru	seven
i-jo-tl	im-jo-tl	eight
i-jo-vas	im-jo-vas	nine

Numbers in the form of ten or greater take on the form of a noun rather than a verb, as shown in the table below:<sup>[28]</sup>

Number	Name
$10^1$ (Ten)	nangavul
$10^2$ (Hundred)	nagat
$10^3$ (Thousand)	netar
$10^4$ (Ten Thousand)	namul

Clear cut numbers greater than ten contain the term 'nangavul nidrumān':<sup>[29]</sup>

Name	Number
nanguavul nidruman i-skham	eleven
nanguavul nidruman i-ru	twelve
nanguavul nidruman i-tl	thirteen
nanguavul nidruman i-vas	fourteentn
nanguavul nidruman i-lim	fifteen
nanguavul nidruman i-jo-s	sixteen
nanguavul nidruman i-jo-ru	seventeen
nanguavul nidruman i-jo-tl	eighteen
nanguavul nidruman i-jo-vas	nineteen
nanguavul i-ru	twenty
nanguavul i-ru nidruman i-skham	twenty one
nagat i-shkam nanguavul i-ru nidruman i-vas	one hundred and twenty four

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